Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. Similarly in Tripura, the names of 52,614 electors have been deleted under Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

Model Land Use Policy for urban areas

*405. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate a Model Land Use Policy for urban areas to meet the aspirations of the economically weaker sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Model Land Use Policy is likely to be brought before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Land is a State subject. Union Government can only provide guidelines in the matter. It is for State Governments to formulate a comprehensive policy in the matter. National Housing & Habitat Policy 1998 takes into account the interests of economically weaker sections of the society, while defining action areas in the Land matters as follows:—

(i) Land is the most critical input for housing. Public agencies should continue to undertake land acquisition proceedings for housing and urban services. Other more feasible alternatives like land sharing and land pooling arrangement, particularly in the urban fringes, should be considered through public and private initiatives with appropriate statutory support. Land assembly and development by the private sector should be encouraged.

(ii) The repeal of the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 is expected to ease the availability of land for all including the urban poor.

(iii) Town and Country Planning regulations may be modified to

provide a portion of land at affordable rates for housing those poor people who provide essential services. This will also help in checking the growth of slums.

(iv) Urban Land use needs to be optimized. Town and Country planning regulations should be amended to provide for higher density use.

(v) Designation of no development zones in high population areas of cities and towns have led to the growth of slums. Planning authorities should re-plan these zones to meet the need of a growing population after taking adequate care for provision of green areas.

Hostels for SC/ST Students

406. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of hostels for SC/ST students in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of students availing the facility in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to construct more number of hostels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The total number of SC/ST hostels alongwith the number of seats sanctioned by the Union Government to State Governments and UT Administrations/Universities/Institutions since 1992-1993 to 2001-2002 under Centrally Sponsored Scheme is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. For construction of more SC/ST hostels in the country, the Union Government has made a budget allocation of Rs. 24 crores for ST hostels and Rs. 43.00 crores for SC hostels during the year 2002-2003, which can be disbursed to the State